

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

In response to the rejection of claims 1, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, typographical errors have been corrected throughout the specification and claims so as to obviate this ground of objection/rejection.

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on Takagi et al. '398 is respectfully traversed.

Since Takagi '398 is only effective as "prior art" as of its January 24, 2003 filing date, it is not actually "prior art" with respect to the present application which is entitled to a foreign priority date of October 2, 2002. A verified English translation of Applicants previously filed priority document is attached to this Amendment so as to perfect the priority claimed.

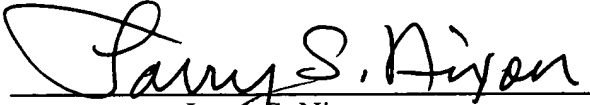
Under such circumstances, the outstanding ground of rejection has been mooted and it is thus not necessary at this time to further explain technological distinctions between this citation and the Applicants claimed invention.

HAYAMI et al
Appl. No. 10/669,605
August 8, 2005

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter at claims 5 and 6 is appreciatively noted. However, in view of the above, all elected patentably distinct claims 1-16 are now believed to be in allowable condition and a formal notice to that affect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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